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Allergy disorder called suicide factor

Dr. Ross Bennett: frustrations

TORONTO — A young man's suicide has prompted Ontario's chief coroner to urge the government to help people crippled by illnesses related to the environment.

A Timmins man shot himself last June after suffering for eight years from a series of health problems diagnosed as hypersensitivity to the environment.

His requests for help from government agencies were brushed aside by officials who insisted that his problems were imaginary, said Chris Brown, of the Allergy and Environmental Health Association.

Many doctors believe environmental hypersenstivity is related to psychiatric factors and not the environment.

"The reasons for his suicide are obviously very complex, but there seems little doubt that the frustrations and problems encountered concerning his environmental hypersensitivity contributed to his ultimate demise," Dr. Ross Bennett, Ontario's retiring chief coroner, wrote in a letter to the government.

Environmental hypersensitivity describes health disorders that some believe are caused by unusual sensitivity to food and pollutants.

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